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The WOOL SITUATION

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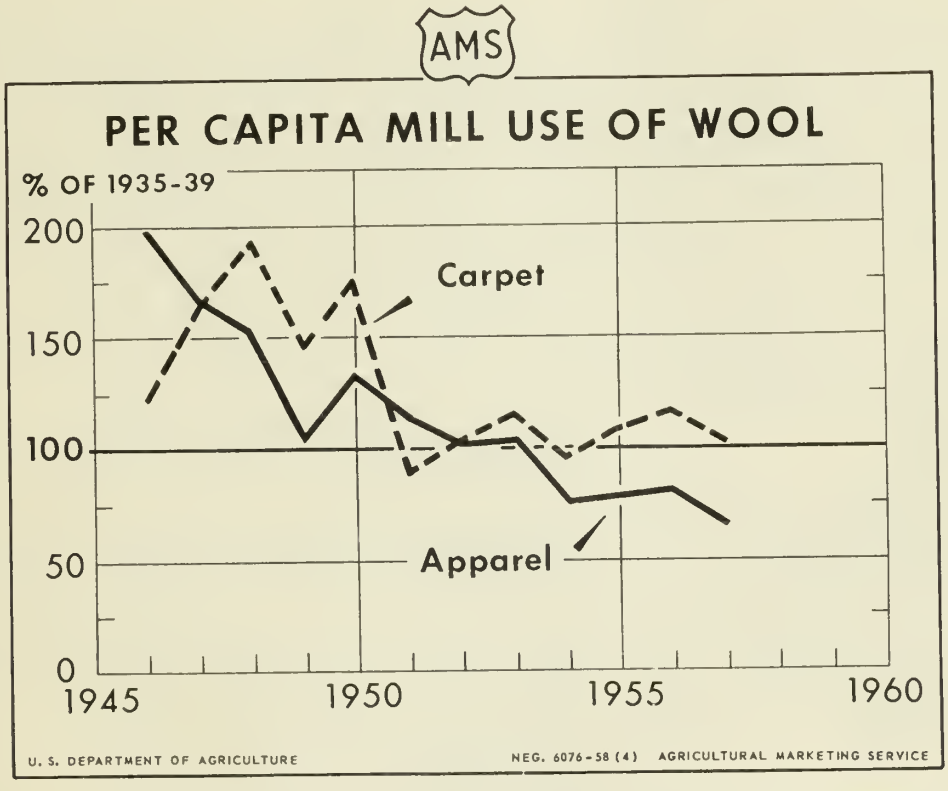

Per capita mill consumption of apparel wool declined somewhat last year. The drop followed small increases during each of the two previous years. Average per capita consumption during the last three years was 25 percent below 1935-39.

Per capita mill use of carpet wool also declined last year. But use last year was considerably higher than the postwar low of 1951. The average for the last three years was about 8 percent above 1935-39.

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STATISTICAL SUMMARY
Part I- Prices

Item	Unit	1957 Jan.	1957 Feb.	1957 Mar.	1957 Apr.	1958 Jan.	1958 Feb.	1958 Mar.	1958 Apr.	Last data available as percent of a year earlier
Wool										
Average price received by farmers, grease basis	Cents per pound	48.9	48.5	51.4	52.3	45.5	44.4	40.7	37.7	72
Parity price 1/		64.5	65.0	65.2	65.4	69.5	69.8	70.2	70.7	108
Farm as percent of parity	Percent	76	75	79	80	65	64	58	53	
Boston, clean basis 2/	Cents per pound									
Domestic										
Graded territory										
Fine good French combing and staple	do.	162.5	162.5	162.2	164.5	140.0	137.5	125.0		77
1/2 blood good French combing and staple	do.	152.5	152.5	152.2	154.5	125.0	123.1	115.6		76
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	132.5	132.5	132.5	132.5	115.0	113.8	107.5		81
1/4 blood good French combing and staple	do.	122.5	122.5	122.5	122.5	110.0	109.4	102.5		84
Low 1/4 blood	do.	109.5	109.5	109.5	109.5	92.5	92.5	92.5		84
Common and braid	do.	101.5	101.5	101.5	101.5	87.5	87.5	87.5		86
Graded fleece										
Delaine	do.	162.5	162.5	162.5	163.0	140.0	138.8	129.4		80
1/2 blood good French combing and staple	do.	137.5	137.5	137.5	141.2	118.0	116.1	108.8		79
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	119.5	118.8	117.0	118.1	107.0	102.1	93.8		80
1/4 blood good French combing and staple	do.	117.1	113.0	111.9	112.8	102.0	97.1	88.8		79
Low 1/4 blood	do.	105.0	105.0	105.0	108.0	92.5	92.5	88.8		85
Common and braid	do.	95.0	95.0	95.0	95.0	87.5	87.5	87.5		92
Original bag Texas										
Fine 12 months good French combing and staple	do.	162.5	162.5	162.5	163.8	149.0	141.2	128.1		79
Fine 8 months (1" and over)	do.	142.5	142.5	142.5	143.8	130.0	126.9	117.5		82
Fine fall (3/4" and over)	do.	132.5	132.5	132.5	133.8	115.0	106.9	101.2		76
Imported, excluding duty										
Australian										
64's, 70's warp and 1/2 warp	do.	157.5	162.5	162.5	162.5	132.5	132.5	128.8		79
64's, 70's good topmaking	do.	152.5	157.5	157.5	157.5	127.5	127.5	123.8		79
64's combing	do.	142.5	147.5	147.5	150.0	122.5	122.5	118.8		81
58's, 60's combing	do.	136.5	142.5	142.5	142.5	112.5	112.5	108.8		76
Montevideo super										
0's (58's, 60's)	do.	140.4	142.8	141.5	141.5	115.5	115.5	114.8		81
1's (56's)	do.	131.5	134.0	134.0	134.0	108.0	108.0	107.6		80
2's (50's)	do.	126.3	130.0	130.0	130.0	105.0	105.0	105.0		81
3's (46's, 48's)	do.	95.5	95.5	96.0	97.5	102.0	99.0	99.0		103
4's (44's)	do.	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	96.5	96.5	96.5		102
5's (40's)	do.	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	96.5	96.5	96.5		102
Manmade staple fiber										
Viscose, 1-1/2 denier 3/	do.	32.0	32.0	29.0	29.0	31.0	31.0	31.0	4/	107
Acetate, 5 denier 3/	do.	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	4/	106
Nylon, 3 denier 5/	do.	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	100
Dacron, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 5/	do.	141.0	141.0	141.0	141.0	141.0	141.0	141.0	141.0	100
Orlon, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 5/	do.	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	100
Acrilan, 3 and 5 denier 5/	do.	112.0	112.0	112.0	112.0	116.0	116.0	116.0	116.0	104
Dynel, 2, 3, 6, 12 and 24 denier 5/	do.	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	110.0	110.0	110.0	110.0	105

1/ Effective parity prices as computed currently using base prices in effect and indexes for months indicated. These parity prices are the legally applicable parity prices for the following month. 2/ From Weekly Review of the Boston Wool Market. 3/ From Textile Organon. 4/ Not available. 5/ From Modern Textile Magazine.

THE WOOL SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, April 30, 1958

CONTENTS

	Page
Summary	3
Wool prices abroad and at Boston	6
Growers' prices down sharply from year ago	6
Domestic shorn wool clip may be larger this year; pulled wool production likely to be down	10
1957-58 World wool production about same as in 1956-57	10
1957-58 exports from Southern Hemisphere lower than in 1956-57	10
January imports of dutiable wool much lower than year earlier	12
Imports of duty-free wool also lower than year earlier	12
Stocks of apparel wool in the United States	12
January 1 stocks of carpet wool lower than 9 months earlier	14
Domestic mill use of apparel wool down from last year	14
Mill use of carpet wool also down	18
Woolen and worsted fabric production also down	18
Cuttings of men's tailored clothing early this year below year earlier	26
Cuttings of most women's outerwear garments also declined early this year	26
Wool market prices important factor in making payments under wool programs	31
USDA announces provisions for 1958 Mohair support program	33
List of tables	35

SUMMARY

During the early weeks of the 1958 domestic wool marketing season which began April 1, prices of wool in both foreign and domestic markets were considerably below a year earlier. The generally lower level reflects the easing of world demand for wool. Prices in world markets began to fall last May, and the declines abroad have continued irregularly through April of this year.

Late in April, prices of wool at the British Dominion auctions were from 40 to 60 cents per pound, clean basis, lower than a year earlier. Boston quotations for domestic wools ranged down from 18 to 34 percent under a year earlier. Prices received by domestic growers for shorn wool sold during April averaged 37.7 cents per pound, grease basis, 28 percent below a year earlier.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Part II - Supplies and Mill Activity

Item	Unit	1956	1957				1958		Last data available as percent of a year earlier
		Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb. 1/	
Imports for consumption, clean content	Million pounds								
Dutiable 2/	do.	6.3	9.8	8.6	8.2	3.9	5.8		59
60's and finer	do.	3.9	5.9	4.9	4.3	2.3	3.7		63
56's - 60's	do.	1.0	1.3	.7	.7	.4	.5		38
50's - 56's	do.	.5	.8	.8	.9	.3	.3		38
44's - 50's	do.	.1	.2	.2	.2	.1	.1		50
40's - 44's	do.	.1	.4	.9	.5	.3	.4		100
Not finer than 40's	do.	.5	.7	.9	1.2	.3	.6		86
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	.2	.5	.2	.4	.2	.2		40
Duty-free	do.	7.8	13.8	11.9	13.4	7.1	11.1		80
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	4.4	6.7	4.7	5.3	3.6	4.9		73
Not finer than 40's	do.	3.4	7.1	7.2	8.1	3.5	6.2		87
Accumulated since January 1									
Dutiable 2/	do.	103.8	9.8	18.4	26.5	78.0	5.8		59
60's and finer	do.	52.4	5.9	10.8	15.0	39.7	3.7		63
56's - 60's	do.	15.8	1.3	2.0	2.8	8.8	.5		38
50's - 56's	do.	11.6	.8	1.6	2.4	6.9	.3		38
44's - 50's	do.	3.8	.2	.4	.6	2.5	.1		50
40's - 44's	do.	4.6	.4	1.3	1.7	3.9	.4		100
Not finer than 40's	do.	12.6	.7	1.6	2.8	10.8	.6		86
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	2.9	.5	.7	1.1	5.2	.2		40
Duty-free	do.	143.1	13.8	25.6	39.1	121.0	11.1		80
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	64.3	6.7	11.4	16.6	56.5	4.9		73
Not finer than 40's	do.	78.8	7.1	14.2	22.5	64.5	6.2		87
Imports for consumption, actual weight									
Dutiable	do.	9.4	14.2	13.0	11.8	5.7	8.3		58
Duty-free	do.	10.5	18.8	16.0	18.1	9.3	14.8		79
Mill consumption, scoured basis 3/									
Per week, during month 4/									
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	1,000 pounds	5,174	5,325	5,587	5,370	3,278	3,467	3,874	69
60's and finer	do.	2,803	2,721	2,947	2,759	1,602	1,831	1,893	64
50's up to 60's	do.	2,003	2,190	2,122	2,018	1,316	1,318	1,616	76
48's and coarser	do.	368	414	518	593	360	318	365	70
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	do.	2,682	3,008	3,351	3,164	1,909	2,024	2,166	65
Accumulated since January 1									
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	Million pounds	296.6	26.6	49.0	70.3	242.9	17.3	15.5	32
60's and finer	do.	160.1	13.6	25.4	36.5	121.0	9.1	7.6	30
50's up to 60's	do.	107.1	10.9	19.4	27.4	98.2	6.6	6.5	34
48's and coarser	do.	29.4	2.1	4.2	6.4	23.7	1.6	1.5	36
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	do.	144.1	15.0	28.4	40.9	128.9	10.1	18.8	66
Woven wool fabric production 5/	Million linear yards								
Accumulated since January 1									
Apparel fabrics	do.	311.5				278.2			89
Government orders	do.	2.3				3.4			148
Men's and boys' wear	do.	153.5				126.9			83
Women's and children's wear	do.	155.7				147.9			95
Non-apparel fabrics	do.	13.7				13.7			100
Blanketing	do.	8.8				8.8			100
Other non-apparel fabrics	do.	4.9				4.9			100
Total woven fabrics	do.	325.2				291.9			90

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Includes carbonized wool which is not reported by grade.
3/ On woolen and worsted systems; excludes wool consumed on the cotton and other spinning systems and in the manufacture of felts, hat bodies, and other miscellaneous products.
4/ Monthly periods are 4 or 5 calendar weeks generally totaling 13 weeks each quarter.
5/ Principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Prices received for wool sold during the 1958 marketing season are likely to average lower than in 1957. With the average down and the incentive level continued at 62 cents, payment rates for shorn wool and unshorn lambs sold during the 1958 season would be higher than for 1957. Payments for the 1958 season will be made in the summer of 1959. The 1958 season is the last covered by the National Wool Act of 1954. Legislation has been introduced to extend the program.

Payments for 1957 will be made this summer when the average price received for the season becomes known. Since the average price for the first ten months was almost one-fourth higher than the 44.3 cents received in 1956, payment rates for 1957 are expected to be considerably lower than for the previous season.

Mohair is also supported under the National Wool Act of 1954. Indications are that prices received during the early weeks of the 1958 marketing season were substantially lower than a year earlier and below the support price of 70 cents per pound, grease basis. The lower prices reflect larger supplies and the easing of world demand. Payments may be necessary for the 1958 season, unless world demand strengthens substantially.

The seasonally adjusted rate of aggregate mill use of wool in the 11 countries which report quarterly to the Commonwealth Economic Committee dropped sharply during the third quarter of last year. During the fourth quarter it was 10 percent lower than a year earlier and the lowest since the last quarter of 1955. Incomplete information for the first quarter of this year suggests that the rate continued below a year earlier.

The seasonally adjusted rate of mill use of apparel wool in the U. S. began to decline during the summer of 1956. In January of this year, it was 35 percent lower than a year earlier and 45 percent lower than when the decline began. The rate advanced somewhat in February to the highest level since last September. It is too early to tell whether the increase was temporary or the beginning of the upward phase of the cycle. Historically, apparel wool consumption in the U. S. has shown a cyclical pattern.

The decline in mill use of wool in the U. S. reflects in part the general decline in textile activity and fiber use which started in 1956. From 1955 to 1956, total mill use of fiber in the U. S. declined about 2 percent as reductions for cotton and manmade cellulosic fibers more than offset increases for apparel and carpet wool, noncellulosic manmade fiber, and silk. Last year total mill use was down 5 percent from 1956 as all fibers except manmade noncellulosic declined. During the first 2 months of this year, mill use of both apparel and carpet wool was about one-third lower than a year earlier.

As mill activity fell off, woolen and worsted fabric production and cuttings of most items of men's tailored clothing and women's outerwear garments also declined.

Except for last September, U. S. imports of dutiable wool for consumption were below a year earlier each month from June 1956 through January of this year, the latest month for which information is available. In January they were about two-fifths lower than a year earlier. The lower level of imports reflects the decline in mill use of apparel wool and some reduction in stocks. Duty-free imports also have been down, reflecting the drop in mill use of carpet wool.

1957-58 world supplies of wool are about the same as for 1956-57. Production is down this season for the first time in 10 years, but the decline is less than one-half of 1 percent.

The U. S. shorn wool clip may increase this year, as there were 3 percent more stock sheep and lambs on farms and ranches on January 1 than a year earlier. But production of pulled wool may be down. Federally-inspected slaughter of sheep and lambs during the first quarter was about 10 percent less than a year earlier. The total for the year may be down as sheepmen continue to rebuild their flocks.

Stocks of both apparel and carpet wool in the U. S. on January 1, 1958 were smaller than on April 1, 1957. However, due to the much lower rate of mill use, the stocks-consumption ratios were higher than on April 1, 1957.

SURVEY OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Wool Prices Abroad And At Boston

As of late April, prices of wool at the British Dominion auctions were from 40 to 60 cents per pound, clean basis, lower than a year earlier (tables 1 and 2). Duty-added prices ranged from 25 to 35 percent lower than a year earlier. Late in April, Boston quotations for domestic wools were from 18 to 34 percent lower than a year earlier (table 3).

The generally lower wool prices reflect the easing of world demand for wool. Prices in world markets began to decline toward the end of May 1957, and the declines abroad have continued irregularly through April of this year.

Late in April, the ratios of Boston quotations for domestic wools to both prices abroad and Boston quotations for imported wools were lower than the average for recent years.

Growers' Prices Down Sharply From Year Ago

Prices received by domestic growers for shorn wool sold during April, the first month of the 1958 domestic marketing season, averaged 37.7 cents per pound, grease basis. The average was 14.6 cents, or 28 percent, lower than a year earlier.

Table 1 .--Price per pound of combing wool, clean basis (Bradford yield), at Australian auctions, by Bradford grades, 1955 to date

Year and month	70's		64's		60's		58's		56's		50's	
	Good	Average	Good	Average	Good	Average	Good	Average	Good	Average	Good	Average
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1955												
January	154	142	132	127	120	116	110	---	102	---	89	---
February	156	145	135	130	123	117	113	---	104	---	92	---
March	152	143	133	130	123	118	115	---	107	---	94	---
April	143	137	130	127	121	116	114	---	107	---	94	---
May	143	138	130	128	120	116	112	---	104	---	91	---
June	144	138	130	126	120	115	112	---	103	---	91	---
July	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
August	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
September	128	120	110	106	100	95	93	90	89	85	81	80
October	127	120	110	106	99	95	92	88	86	82	76	75
November	128	120	110	106	98	95	90	87	83	80	75	74
December	129	121	111	110	99	97	92	90	85	84	79	78
1956												
January	130	123	113	111	101	99	95	93	88	87	81	80
February	131	123	115	111	101	100	94	92	87	86	80	79
March	130	122	113	111	101	99	91	88	85	83	78	77
April	135	128	118	115	104	102	95	92	87	85	80	78
May	142	136	127	124	113	109	100	97	90	87	81	79
June	149	143	139	133	124	117	109	104	94	90	82	80
July	147	141	132	127	116	110	103	97	90	87	78	76
August	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
September	157	152	144	140	128	125	115	110	101	97	87	84
October	157	150	139	135	124	119	113	108	99	95	88	86
November	163	154	144	139	129	124	115	111	101	98	90	88
December	168	159	149	145	134	129	120	114	108	104	95	92
1957												
January	165	158	149	145	135	130	121	116	110	106	97	94
February	169	163	155	151	141	138	130	124	117	113	102	99
March	167	160	152	148	139	135	128	122	116	112	102	99
April	166	160	155	151	145	140	133	126	119	116	105	102
May	171	165	162	157	152	146	139	133	126	122	111	108
June	172	164	159	150	147	138	132	124	122	113	104	101
July	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
August	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
September	155	145	140	134	131	126	123	118	114	110	103	100
October	146	138	132	127	123	118	116	111	109	103	96	93
November	135	129	125	119	116	111	110	104	105	98	93	89
December	122	118	114	109	106	102	102	96	95	89	84	80
1958												
January	124	119	116	111	109	104	102	97	96	90	83	79
February	130	124	121	116	112	108	103	99	97	93	83	80
March	119	113	110	106	103	99	94	90	89	84	74	72

From Wool Statistical Service, Australian Wool Bureau. Prices converted from pence (Australian) to cents at current rates of exchange.

Table 2.--Price per pound of fleece wools, clean basis (Bradford yield), at the London auctions, by Bradford grades, 1956 to date

Week ended 1/		Good medium fleeces		Fine crossbred fleeces		Crossbred fleeces	
		64's-70's	58's-60's	56's	50's	48's	46's
		Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1956							
January	20	135.7	111.2	94.8	90.1	87.8	87.8
January	27	136.9	111.1	92.4	87.7	85.4	85.4
March	2	138.0	107.6	---	84.2	81.9	80.7
March	15	138.0	105.2	92.4	83.0	80.7	80.7
April	20	140.4	115.9	99.5	87.8	85.4	85.4
April	27	142.6	115.7	99.4	87.7	85.3	85.3
June	1	151.8	---	101.6	---	---	86.4
June	8	151.9	122.7	101.6	88.8	86.5	86.5
July	13	151.4	128.1	---	88.5	86.2	86.2
July	20	153.7	128.1	---	89.7	87.3	86.2
September	14	165.8	139.1	104.3	97.4	95.1	92.8
September	21	165.8	139.2	---	97.4	95.1	92.8
October	26	156.6	133.4	99.8	91.7	89.3	88.2
October	31	156.5	133.3	99.7	93.9	91.6	90.4
November	30	170.4	139.1	110.1	104.3	100.9	100.9
December	7	169.3	135.7	105.5	97.4	95.1	93.9
1957							
January	18	172.5	138.7	106.0	97.9	95.6	95.6
February	1	174.9	138.8	111.9	99.1	95.6	95.6
February	22	174.9	143.4	121.2	102.6	96.8	95.6
March	1	172.5	139.8	114.2	99.0	94.4	93.2
March	29	171.9	141.7	118.5	103.4	97.6	97.6
April	5	171.8	144.0	120.8	105.7	99.9	99.9
May	17	178.9	156.8	127.8	109.2	102.2	102.2
May	24	174.4	150.0	---	104.6	97.6	97.6
July	5	168.6	140.7	122.1	101.2	95.4	95.4
July	12	171.8	146.3	127.7	102.2	96.4	96.4
September	13	160.0	141.4	127.5	102.0	93.9	93.9
September	20	161.2	141.5	129.9	104.4	96.3	96.3
October	25	145.8	128.3	117.8	95.6	91.0	88.6
November	1	139.8	128.1	117.6	89.7	85.0	82.7
November	29	135.6	126.2	116.9	91.2	86.5	84.2
December	6	127.4	118.0	113.4	88.8	85.3	83.0
1958							
January	17	127.8	111.3	---	80.9	77.4	---
January	31	133.7	118.5	96.2	84.5	80.9	79.8
February	21	134.9	120.8	---	76.3	72.7	71.6
February	28	130.2	110.2	---	73.9	70.4	70.4
March	21	130.1	111.4	---	73.9	70.3	69.2
March	28	130.2	111.5	---	71.6	68.1	66.9

1/ Opening and closing weeks for each series.

Compiled from Kreglinger and Fernau market reports. Prices converted from pence (United Kingdom) to cents at current rates of exchange.

Table 3.- Prices of domestic shorn wool at Boston, clean basis, for week ended April 25, 1958 with comparisons

Classification	Average 1947-49	1957 week ended Apr. 26	1958 week ended Feb. 28	1958 week ended Apr. 25	Percentage change week ended April 25 from: Average 1947-49	Apr. 26 1957	Feb. 28 1958
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Percent	Percent	Percent
Graded							
Territory and Texas							
Fine, good French combing and staple	151.7	167.5	130.0	115.0	-24.2	-31.4	-11.5
1/2 blood, good French combing and staple	137.1	162.5	120.0	107.5	-21.6	-33.8	-10.4
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	109.1	132.5	112.5	95.0	-12.9	-28.3	-15.6
1/4 blood, good French combing and staple	100.0	122.5	107.5	90.0	-10.0	-26.5	-16.3
Low 1/4 blood	89.9	109.5	92.5	87.5	- 2.7	-20.1	- 5.4
Common and braid	83.5	101.5	87.5	82.5	- 1.2	-18.7	- 5.7
Fleece							
Fine, Delaine	154.5	167.5	135.0	120.0	-22.3	-28.4	-11.1
1/2 blood, good French combing and staple	131.6	147.5	112.5	102.5	-22.1	-30.5	- 8.9
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	103.2	120.0	97.5	82.5	-20.1	-31.2	-15.4
1/4 blood, good French combing and staple	97.0	115.0	92.5	80.0	-17.5	-30.4	-13.5
Low 1/4 blood	78.4	111.0	92.5	77.5	- 1.2	-30.2	-16.2
Common and braid	73.4	95.0	87.5	77.5	+ 5.6	-18.4	-11.4
Original bag							
Fine Texas							
Good French combing and staple	150.9	167.5	135.0	117.5	-22.1	-29.9	-13.0
Eight months (1 inch and over)	121.0	147.5	122.5	107.5	-11.2	-27.1	-12.2
Fall (3/4 inch and over)	110.8	137.5	102.5	92.5	-16.5	-32.7	- 9.8

Compiled from market reports of Agricultural Marketing Service.

The general movement of the monthly average of prices received by growers has been similar to that of prices in foreign markets. Prices declined each month from June of last year through April of this year.

Present indications are that the prices received for wool sold during the 1958 marketing season are likely to average lower than for 1957. With the average down and the incentive level continued at 62 cents, payment rates for shorn wool and unshorn lambs for the 1958 season would be higher than in 1957.

Payments for the 1957 season will be made this summer when the average price received for shorn wool sold during 1957 becomes known. The 1957 average is expected to increase substantially over a year earlier as the average for sales in the first 10 months of the season was almost one-fourth higher than the 44.3 cents received in 1956. Since the incentive level was unchanged, payment rates will be lower than those for the 1956 season.

The 1958 season is the fourth and last under the National Wool Act of 1954. Legislation has been introduced to extend the incentive program.

Domestic Shorn Wool
Clip May be Larger
This Year; Pulled Wool
Production Likely to Be Down

An increase in U. S. shorn wool production appears to be in prospect in 1958, since there were 3 percent more stock sheep and lambs on farms and ranches on January 1 than a year earlier.

Federally-inspected slaughter of sheep and lambs during the first 3 months of this year was about 10 percent below a year earlier. The year's total slaughter and production of pulled wool may be down as sheepmen continue to rebuild their flocks.

1957-58 World Wool Production
About Same As In 1956-57

The Foreign Agricultural Service estimate of 1957-58 world production of wool remains unchanged at 4,970 million pounds, grease basis, about 20 million pounds less than last year. The decline this season, less than one-half of 1 percent, is the first in 10 years. It reflects a drop of 7 percent in the Australian clip due to drought.

1957-58 Exports from Southern
Hemisphere Lower Than in 1956-57

Total exports of wool from the 5 major surplus-producing countries of the Southern Hemisphere during the early months of the 1957-58 season were down somewhat from the corresponding months of the 1956-57 season (table 4). Exports from all of these countries except Australia were smaller than a year earlier.

The total supply available for export from these 5 countries this season is larger than in 1956-57. Supplies are up in all except Australia and probably the Union of South Africa.

Table 4.--Exports of wool, actual weight, from Southern Hemisphere surplus-producing countries, 1955-56, 1956-57 and 1957-58 seasons through January 1/

Exporting country	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Australia	648	690	708
New Zealand 2/	118	1 58	153
Union of South Africa 2/	127	119	104
Argentina 2/	50	45	20
Uruguay	71	54	22

1/ Season beginning July 1 in Australia, New Zealand, and Union of South Africa, and season beginning October 1 in Argentina and Uruguay.
2/ Through December.

Compiled from reports of the Commonwealth Economic Committee.

The proportion of the Australian clip offered and sold during the early months of the season was somewhat larger than usual. The effect of the drought was underestimated when the offerings were scheduled prior to the opening of sales. The drop in production coupled with the heavy early sales have reduced supplies available for the remainder of the season considerably below a year earlier.

In the Union of South Africa, offerings were smaller than anticipated due to adverse weather conditions--severe drought in some areas and an over-abundance of rain which delayed shearing in other areas. In addition, some growers reportedly have held back their wool in the hope that prices will strengthen.

Increased carryover and increased clips this season account for the rise in supplies in both Argentina and Uruguay. When the easing of world demand brought world market prices for wool to levels below "aforo" values--fixed minimum prices set by the governments in order to determine the amount of exchange that must be surrendered by the exporter to the official exchange market--it became unprofitable for exporters to sell abroad. Growers

refused to sell their wool, in an attempt to force their governments to reduce the "aforo" values. The "aforos" have been reduced in both countries, and Argentina has abolished the 8 percent export sales tax and the 5 percent exchange retention.

January Imports of Dutiable Wool Much Lower Than Year Earlier

U. S. imports of dutiable wool for consumption amounted to 5.8 million pounds, clean content, about three-fifths of the quantity of a year earlier. Except for last September, imports of dutiable wools have been below a year earlier each month since June 1956, because of the decline in mill use and some reduction in stocks.

Imports of Duty-Free Wool Also Lower Than Year Earlier

In January U. S. imports of duty-free wool for consumption in the manufacture of floor coverings amounted to 11.1 million pounds, clean content, about one-fifth less than a year earlier. The decline reflects the reduced rate of mill use.

Stocks of Apparel Wool In the United States

Commercial stocks of apparel wool in the U. S. on January 1 are reported to have totaled about 115 million pounds, scoured basis (table 5). Comparable data are not available for a year earlier. However, as of April 1, 1957, stocks amounted to 122 million pounds.

The ratio of stocks on January 1 to the rate of consumption during October-December was considerably higher than the ratio of stocks on April 1, 1957, to the rate of consumption during January-March 1957 due to the much lower rate of consumption. It was the highest since early 1948.

Manufacturers' holdings on January 1 of this year were about 8 million pounds smaller than 9 months earlier. Dealers' holdings, including wool held on consignment, were up 23 million pounds, with 20 million pounds of the increase in domestic wool. Commodity Credit Corporation holdings were down 22 million pounds. The last of the CCC stocks have been disposed of.

Stocks of both domestic and foreign wool on January 1 were lower than 9 months earlier. Holdings of domestic wool were down 5 million pounds, and holdings of foreign were down 2 million pounds. Of the holdings of foreign wool 16 million pounds were held in bond, about the same as 9 months earlier.

Table 5.--Commercial stocks of apparel wool, scoured basis, and a comparison of stocks with mill consumption, United States, December 28, 1946-January 1958 1/

Year	Held by						Total reported stocks	Number of weeks mill supply represented by stocks held by 2/		
	Manufacturers			Dealers and U. S Government				Manufacturers	Dealers and U. S. Government	Total
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total				
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Number	Number	Number
Dec. 28, 1946	44,217	109,735	153,952	229,187	54,620	283,807	437,759	12.7	23.3	36.0
Jan. 3, 1948	49,574	89,151	138,725	190,525	32,262	222,787	361,512	14.8	23.9	38.7
Apr. 2, 1949	37,945	57,712	95,657	86,504	17,160	103,664	199,321	14.6	15.9	30.5
Apr. 1, 1950	36,300	54,824	91,124	36,053	16,058	52,111	143,235	10.7	6.2	16.9
Dec. 29, 1951	22,925	61,797	84,722	34,227	16,138	50,365	135,087	13.4	7.9	21.3
Dec. 27, 1952	29,205	51,021	80,226	65,622	16,215	81,837	162,063	11.1	11.4	22.5
Apr. 1, 1954	24,323	34,144	58,467	80,103	11,126	91,229	149,696	12.1	18.9	31.0
Apr. 1, 1955	27,442	32,686	60,128	87,561	11,982	99,543	159,671	11.0	18.3	29.3
Apr. 1, 1956	28,923	29,697	58,620	76,372	10,674	87,046	145,666	9.6	14.2	23.8
Apr. 1, 1957	38,091	29,149	67,240	45,889	9,217	55,106	122,346	12.4	10.2	22.6
Jan. 1, 1958 3/	34,813	24,265	59,078	43,726	11,837	55,563	114,641	17.0	15.9	32.9

1/ Includes stocks held on consignment, stocks held in bond, and stocks in process of manufacture up to the carding operation, but excludes wool held by the Commodity Credit Corporation for the Department of Defense (1951 and 1952) and wool held for the account of domestic growers except that held on consignment for growers.

2/ Stocks compared with mill consumption during 3 previous months.

3/ Preliminary.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

January 1 Stocks of Carpet Wool Lower Than 9 Months Earlier

Commercial stocks of carpet wool in the U. S. on January 1 amounted to about 34 million pounds, scoured basis, about 5 million pounds less than on April 1, 1957 (table 6). Dealers' holdings were almost 2 million pounds larger, but manufacturers' holdings were 7 million pounds lower.

Although stocks were smaller than on April 1, 1957, the stocks-consumption ratio was up due to the reduced rate of mill use of carpet wool.

Of the total stocks on hand, about 5 million pounds were held in bond.

Domestic Mill Use of Apparel Wool Down From Last Year

Domestic woolen and worsted mills used 33 million pounds, scoured basis, of apparel wool during the first 2 months of this year. Use was down about 16 million pounds or about one-third less than in January-February of last year (table 7).

The total quantity of fiber used by the wool textile industry in the spinning of yarn other than carpet and in the production of top was down 22 million pounds, or 24 percent. The decline, although concentrated largely in the use of wool, was not limited to wool. Use of manmade fiber was down about 1 million pounds or 5 percent. Rayon and acetate use fell about 20 percent, and the newer manmade fibers gained 16 percent. Consumption of other fiber, mostly reused and reprocessed wool, was about 18 percent or 5 million pounds smaller than a year earlier.

The lower level of fiber use in woolen and worsted manufacture reflects a general decline in textile activity and fiber use which started in 1956 (table 8). Total mill use of fiber in the U. S. in 1956 was about 2 percent smaller than in 1955, as declines for cotton and rayon and acetate more than offset increases for both apparel and carpet wool, manmade non-cellulosic fiber, and silk. Total use last year was down 5 percent from 1956, as all types declined except the manmade non-cellulosic.

For reasons discussed in the last issue of this report, the seasonally adjusted rate of mill use of apparel wool began to decline during the summer of 1956. In January of this year it was 35 percent below a year earlier and 45 percent lower than when the decline began. It advanced somewhat in February, when it was the highest since last September. However it

Table 6.--Commercial stocks of carpet wool, scoured basis, and a comparison of stocks with mill consumption, United States, December 28, 1946-January 1, 1958 1/

Year	Held by		Total reported stocks	Number of weeks mill supply represented by stocks held by 2/		
	Dealers	Manufacturers		Dealers	Manufacturers	Total
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Number	Number	Number
Dec. 28, 1946	16,550	85,763	102,313	5.8	30.4	36.2
Jan. 3, 1948	12,808	62,809	75,617	3.7	18.3	22.0
Apr. 2, 1949	12,560	49,432	61,992	3.2	12.5	15.7
Apr. 1, 1950	5,298	49,207	54,505	1.3	12.4	13.7
Dec. 29, 1951	6,031	32,389	38,420	3.7	19.6	23.3
Dec. 27, 1952	5,247	37,613	42,860	1.9	13.2	15.1
Jan. 2, 1954	8,967	33,329	42,296	3.9	14.4	18.3
Jan. 1, 1955	5,504	24,834	30,338	2.4	10.9	13.3
Dec. 31, 1955	6,789	27,617	34,406	2.4	9.6	12.0
Jan. 1, 1957	5,524	27,675	33,199	2.0	10.3	12.3
Jan. 1, 1958 3/	6,875	26,872	33,747	3.2	12.6	15.8

1/ Includes stocks held on consignment and stocks in process of manufacture up to the carding operation.

2/ Stocks compared with mill consumption during 3 previous months.

3/ Preliminary.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 7.--Average weekly rate of consumption of apparel and carpet wool on woolen and worsted systems, scoured basis, United States, by months, 1950 to date

Classification	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
1950												
Apparel	8,006	8,837	8,518	7,943	8,268	8,084	7,370	9,901	9,015	9,671	7,871	7,393
Carpet	3,974	3,977	3,989	4,208	4,097	3,725	2,448	3,989	3,710	4,223	3,712	3,638
Total	11,980	12,814	12,507	12,151	12,365	11,809	9,818	13,890	12,725	13,894	11,583	11,031
1951												
Apparel	8,192	7,496	7,020	8,754	8,609	8,541	6,282	7,320	6,912	6,360	6,368	6,300
Carpet	3,416	3,410	3,268	2,507	1,807	1,622	413	1,040	1,069	1,556	1,663	1,761
Total	11,608	10,906	10,288	11,261	10,416	10,163	6,695	8,360	7,981	7,916	8,031	8,061
1952												
Apparel	5,904	6,218	5,971	5,876	6,277	6,779	6,335	7,621	7,784	7,656	7,120	6,725
Carpet	2,261	2,513	2,385	2,265	2,033	1,403	1,289	2,305	2,730	2,648	2,824	3,029
Total	8,165	8,731	8,356	8,141	8,310	8,182	7,624	9,926	10,514	10,304	9,944	9,754
1953												
Apparel	7,033	7,599	7,704	7,472	8,075	8,034	6,526	7,649	7,083	5,986	4,717	4,118
Carpet	2,869	3,238	3,295	2,929	2,450	2,622	1,490	2,677	2,503	2,358	2,258	2,137
Total	9,902	10,837	10,999	10,401	10,525	10,656	8,061	10,326	9,586	8,344	6,975	6,255
1954												
Apparel	4,652	4,916	4,894	5,476	5,851	5,570	5,271	5,926	4,881	4,962	4,685	4,520
Carpet	2,514	2,500	2,389	2,346	2,093	1,793	1,370	2,296	2,300	2,365	2,274	2,214
Total	7,166	7,416	7,283	7,822	7,944	7,363	6,641	8,222	7,181	7,327	6,959	6,734
1955												
Apparel	5,279	5,673	5,390	5,586	5,751	5,282	5,046	5,721	5,066	5,621	5,570	5,098
Carpet	2,546	2,540	2,541	2,555	2,585	2,251	1,655	2,629	2,650	2,976	2,893	2,775
Total	7,825	8,213	7,931	8,141	8,336	7,533	6,701	8,350	7,716	8,597	8,463	7,873
1956												
Apparel	6,169	6,404	5,864	6,254	6,141	5,568	5,212	5,965	5,110	5,919	4,994	5,174
Carpet	3,213	3,362	2,898	3,037	2,863	2,363	1,787	3,044	2,685	3,206	2,309	2,682
Total	9,382	9,766	8,762	9,291	9,004	7,931	6,999	9,009	7,795	9,125	7,303	7,856
1957												
Apparel	5,325	5,587	5,370	5,032	5,330	5,390	4,256	4,819	4,595	3,685	3,438	3,278
Carpet	3,008	3,351	3,164	2,872	2,388	2,068	1,702	2,445	2,388	2,388	2,045	1,909
Total	8,333	8,938	8,534	7,904	7,718	7,458	5,958	7,264	6,983	6,073	5,483	5,187
1958												
Apparel	3,467	3,874										
Carpet	2,024	2,166										
Total	5,491	6,040										

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 8.--Estimated mill consumption of wool, rayon, acetate, other manmade fibers, silk, and cotton, United States, 1946-57

Year	Wool (scoured basis) 1/			Rayon and acetate 4/			Other manmade fibers 4/	Silk 5/	Cotton 6/
	Apparel 2/	Carpet 3/	Total	Filament yarn	Staple fiber	Total			
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
1946	609.6	127.9	737.5	666.5	209.2	875.7	53.2	13.5	4,809.1
1947	525.9	172.3	698.2	729.3	258.6	987.9	51.4	3.2	4,665.6
1948	485.2	207.9	693.1	846.7	302.9	1,149.6	71.6	7.4	4,463.5
1949	339.0	161.4	500.4	782.8	210.7	993.5	92.8	4.0	3,839.1
1950	436.9	197.9	634.8	955.6	396.0	1,351.6	140.5	10.5	4,682.7
1951	382.1	102.0	484.1	865.5	411.1	1,276.6	195.5	7.2	4,868.6
1952	346.8	119.6	466.4	845.2	370.3	1,215.5	249.1	12.6	4,470.9
1953	358.0	135.9	493.9	865.6	357.4	1,223.0	279.6	7.8	4,456.1
1954	269.6	114.5	384.1	721.2	433.6	1,154.8	328.7	8.5	4,127.3
1955	281.2	132.6	413.8	857.8	561.4	1,419.2	432.1	11.0	4,382.4
1956	296.6	144.1	440.7	727.2	473.9	1,201.1	482.9	12.7	4,362.6
1957 7/	242.9	128.9	371.8	686.1	491.4	1,177.5	561.3	8.3	4,064.1

1/ Consumption, scoured basis, on woolen and worsted systems as reported by the Bureau of the Census.

2/ Domestic and duty-paid foreign.

3/ Duty-free foreign.

4/ Domestic shipments plus imports for consumption as published by the Textile Economics Bureau, Inc.

5/ Imports for consumption as reported by the Bureau of the Census.

6/ Mill consumption as reported by the Bureau of the Census. For American Cotton, tare as reported by the Crop Reporting Board was deducted; for foreign cotton, 3 percent was deducted.

7/ Preliminary.

is too early to tell whether the increase that month represented merely a temporary reversal of the downward movement or the beginning of the upward phase of the cycle. Historically, apparel wool consumption in the U. S. has shown a pronounced cyclical pattern (figures 1-4).

The decline in use of both wool and all fiber in top and noil production was greater than the decline in their use in woolen spinning. During January-February of this year, total use of fiber in the production of top and noil was one-third smaller than a year earlier; use of wool was down 40 percent. Total use of fiber in woolen spinning was 18 percent lower than a year earlier while use of wool was down 25 percent.

Mill Use of Carpet Wool Also Down

The use of wool by woolen mills in the spinning of carpet and rug yarn during January-February was down about one-third, or 10 million pounds, scoured basis, less than early last year. Total use of other fiber was unchanged: an increase of 18 percent in the use of manmade fiber offsetting a decline of 24 percent in total use of reused and reprocessed wool, cotton, jute and others.

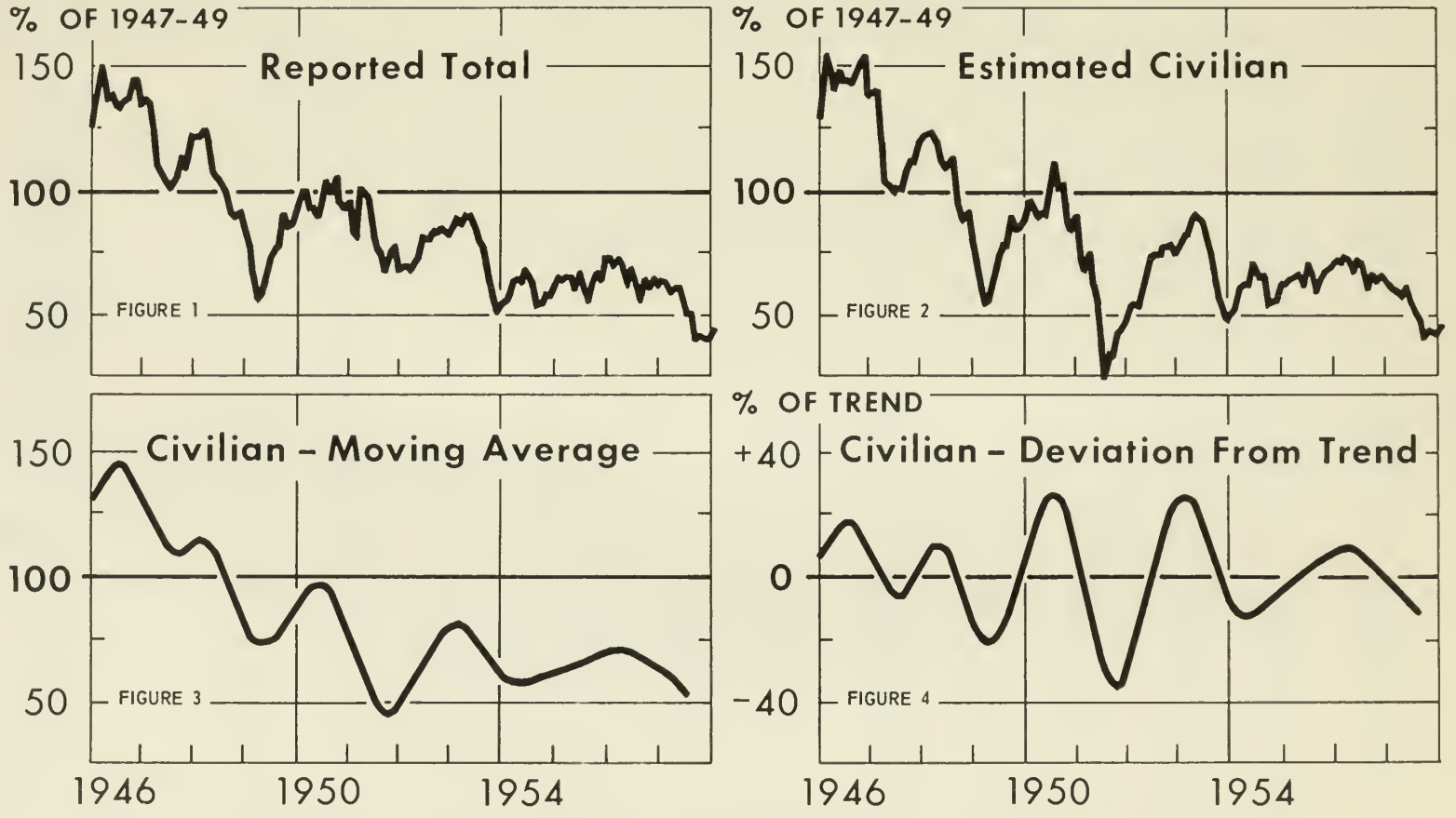
The increase in use of manmade fiber so far this year has reversed the decline that began in 1957. Sharply increased use of manmade non-cellulosic fiber last year, four times that of 1956, offset a large part of a drop in use of rayon and acetate. Although this decline in use of rayon and acetate continued early this year, down almost two-fifths from a year earlier, use of other manmade fiber was four times that of early 1957. This rapid increase is explained by the several manmade non-cellulosic fibers designed specifically for use in the manufacture of carpets and rugs that have recently gone into commercial production.

Woolen and Worsted Fabric Production Also Down

Production of woven fabric (except felt) containing, by weight, 50 percent or more raw, reused or reprocessed wool or other animal fiber during the fourth quarter of last year was about 18 percent below a year earlier. It was 7 or 8 percent below a year earlier during each of the first three quarters of the year. Total woven fabric production in 1957, 292 million linear yards, was 10 percent below 1956 (table 13). The decline followed increases during each of the two previous years, as was the case for woolen and worsted mill use of wool and all fiber. Production was above a year earlier from the fourth quarter of 1954 through the third quarter of 1956. It then dropped below a year earlier and continued below through the final quarter of 1957 (table 14).

The drop in production last year extended to practically all of the major fabric categories. Woven felt was down 15 percent; other non-apparel fabric was down 1 percent; and apparel fabric was down 11 percent.

MILL USE OF APPAREL WOOL



BASED ON SEASONALLY ADJUSTED AVERAGE WEEKLY RATES

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 1880-58(4) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

Table 9.--Percentage distribution of apparel wool and other fiber consumed on the worsted system, United States, by months, 1951 to date 1/

Fiber	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep													
1951	84.7	86.0	84.4	88.1	87.8	87.2	85.4	86.2	86.9	84.8	82.5	83.2	85.8
1952	85.5	84.4	82.5	85.4	85.6	86.7	89.6	87.6	88.2	87.6	86.5	84.8	86.4
1953	86.2	85.3	89.2	88.7	89.3	87.9	91.2	89.9	90.8	89.2	86.2	88.6	88.6
1954	86.7	87.9	86.7	87.8	88.1	88.4	89.7	88.5	87.8	83.5	86.0	88.1	88.5
1955	87.4	88.1	88.4	86.9	85.1	86.5	87.8	86.8	87.4	88.6	89.9	88.7	87.6
1956	88.9	88.5	88.4	88.1	87.8	89.5	89.6	88.4	90.3	89.8	89.6	89.0	89.0
1957	89.5	89.0	86.0	86.7	86.3	86.8	87.7	83.8	84.6	82.3	85.2	81.6	86.1
1958	86.7	83.8											
Manmade fiber 2/ 3/													
1951	4.4	3.9	3.7	3.1	3.4	3.0	2.9	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.5	3.3	3.2
1952	3.3	3.4	4.3	3.3	2.4	2.9	2.5	2.9	2.1	2.4	2.8	3.0	2.9
1953	8.6	8.3	7.3	7.2	6.0	6.5	4.6	5.8	5.5	5.9	6.6	4.3	6.5
1954	6.2	6.0	6.5	5.8	5.6	5.8	4.9	5.0	6.6	6.1	5.6	5.4	5.4
1955	6.3	5.4	6.0	6.4	6.8	6.7	6.8	7.5	6.8	5.8	4.8	6.3	6.3
1956	6.5	6.0	5.8	6.1	6.1	5.1	4.6	5.4	5.4	6.1	6.3	6.2	5.8
1957	5.9	6.6	8.3	8.2	7.9	8.2	7.8	10.1	10.0	11.1	8.9	11.4	8.5
1958	8.7	8.9											
Other fiber 2/													
1951	10.9	10.1	11.9	8.8	8.8	9.8	11.7	11.6	10.8	12.9	15.0	13.5	11.0
1952	11.2	12.2	13.2	11.3	12.0	10.4	7.9	9.5	9.7	10.0	10.7	12.2	10.7
1953	5.2	6.4	3.5	4.1	4.7	5.6	4.2	4.3	3.7	4.9	7.2	7.1	4.9
1954	7.1	6.1	6.8	6.4	6.3	5.8	5.4	6.5	5.6	10.4	8.4	6.5	6.1
1955	6.3	6.5	5.6	6.7	8.1	6.8	5.4	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.3	5.0	6.1
1956	4.6	5.5	5.8	5.8	6.1	5.4	5.8	6.2	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.8	5.2
1957	4.6	4.4	5.7	5.1	5.8	5.0	4.5	6.1	5.4	6.6	5.9	7.0	5.4
1958	4.6	7.3											

1/ Consumption on the worsted system is taken as the sum of top and noil combed.
2/ Prior to January 1953, man-made fibers other than rayon and acetate were included in "other fiber."
3/ Does not include top converted from tow without combing.

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 10.--Percentage distribution of production of top by fiber content, United States, by months, 1956 to date

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
						Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep							
1956	77.0	76.0	76.7	73.3	71.8	74.8	73.7	72.2	77.7	75.9	76.7	75.1	75.1
1957	76.9	76.2	72.0	71.0	70.8	70.4	70.8	65.5	68.4	64.4	65.4	66.9	70.2
1958	70.5	67.7											
						Manmade fiber 1/							
1956	19.1	19.5	18.5	22.0	23.3	20.8	21.6	22.8	19.0	20.8	19.8	21.0	20.6
1957	19.3	20.2	23.5	24.9	24.6	25.6	25.6	29.8	27.3	30.6	30.1	27.5	25.5
1958	25.8	26.5											
						Other fiber							
1956	3.9	4.5	4.8	4.7	4.9	4.4	4.7	5.0	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.9	4.3
1957	3.8	3.6	4.5	4.1	4.6	4.0	3.6	4.7	4.3	5.0	4.5	5.6	4.3
1958	3.7	5.8											

1/ Top combed and top converted from tow without combing.

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 11.--Percentage distribution of apparel wool and other fiber consumed for the spinning of yarn (except carpet) on the woolen system, United States, by months, 1951 to date

Fiber	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep													
1951	35.3	36.7	39.6	41.7	42.0	42.0	46.5	45.5	45.9	47.1	45.1	45.2	42.5
1952	43.4	42.2	42.3	41.6	42.0	41.2	41.9	43.4	42.7	43.8	44.2	43.8	42.7
1953	43.6	46.1	45.3	47.9	45.1	44.0	42.3	45.6	47.4	46.8	46.7	45.8	44.7
1954	45.4	42.8	43.4	43.2	43.2	42.3	41.0	41.8	43.6	43.2	44.0	42.9	43.0
1955	41.9	42.0	41.4	41.1	41.9	40.2	40.3	39.2	39.3	38.2	39.8	40.1	40.4
1956	39.8	39.1	40.0	40.4	38.9	40.2	39.4	39.0	38.9	39.1	40.4	40.5	39.6
1957	39.3	39.7	40.4	39.0	37.5	37.3	36.3	35.5	35.7	34.8	32.0	33.3	36.8
1958	36.4	35.5											
Other wool, reprocessed wool, and reused wool 1/													
1951	48.3	45.5	42.8	44.3	42.5	43.5	40.3	40.8	41.6	41.2	43.1	42.4	43.2
1952	43.8	43.6	42.0	42.6	42.4	45.7	46.2	42.6	43.0	42.2	41.5	41.9	43.2
1953	43.1	40.6	40.1	37.0	41.2	42.2	44.6	40.1	38.4	38.5	36.6	40.2	41.3
1954	40.6	41.6	41.0	41.0	42.5	44.7	45.5	42.5	41.1	41.5	40.4	43.2	42.2
1955	43.4	42.0	41.3	42.4	41.1	43.1	42.9	41.9	42.5	44.3	42.0	43.6	42.5
1956	43.7	43.2	42.7	42.0	42.8	41.0	42.9	42.2	41.2	40.9	38.7	41.3	41.9
1957	40.1	40.0	39.3	40.1	40.4	41.3	42.3	42.9	41.3	40.7	43.6	45.9	41.4
1958	40.4	42.0											
Manmade fiber 2/													
1951	7.0	8.3	7.6	6.1	7.2	6.6	5.5	5.3	5.0	4.3	4.2	4.4	6.0
1952	4.3	4.9	6.6	6.0	6.2	4.9	4.4	4.8	5.1	5.0	4.8	4.9	5.1
1953	8.7	8.2	8.9	9.4	8.6	8.2	8.1	8.8	8.3	8.6	9.6	7.2	8.5
1954	8.0	10.1	10.5	11.0	9.9	9.3	9.7	11.4	11.6	11.4	11.4	10.2	10.4
1955	11.1	12.6	13.7	12.8	13.2	12.9	13.1	14.5	14.1	13.0	13.8	11.8	13.1
1956	11.9	12.7	12.8	13.2	13.9	14.0	13.4	14.2	15.1	15.2	15.8	13.6	13.8
1957	15.8	15.2	15.6	16.4	17.7	16.7	16.5	16.8	18.3	19.6	19.9	16.7	17.1
1958	19.1	19.1											
Other fiber 2/													
1951	9.4	9.5	10.0	7.9	8.3	7.9	7.7	8.4	7.5	7.4	7.6	8.0	8.3
1952	8.5	9.3	9.1	9.8	9.4	8.2	7.5	9.2	9.2	9.0	9.5	9.4	9.0
1953	4.6	5.1	5.7	5.7	5.1	5.6	5.0	5.5	5.9	6.1	7.1	6.8	5.5
1954	6.0	5.5	5.1	4.8	4.4	3.7	3.8	4.3	3.7	3.9	4.2	3.7	4.4
1955	3.6	3.4	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.7	4.4	4.1	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.0
1956	4.6	5.0	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.8	4.3	4.6	4.8	4.8	5.1	4.6	4.7
1957	4.8	5.1	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.7	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.9	4.5	4.1	4.7
1958	4.1	3.4											

1/ As defined in the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939.

2/ Prior to January 1953, manmade fibers other than rayon and acetate were included in "other fiber".

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 12.- Percentage distribution of fibers consumed for spinning of carpet and rug yarns on the woolen system, United States, by months, 1950 to date

Fiber	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep													
1950	80.3	80.3	81.2	81.6	81.6	79.1	75.5	78.4	78.5	76.8	74.7	74.2	79.2
1951	73.9	71.4	72.5	63.0	54.6	52.0	38.7	56.2	57.4	65.5	64.5	69.8	64.6
1952	71.1	73.8	72.0	72.4	70.9	74.5	75.1	78.5	75.2	74.2	75.5	73.9	73.9
1953	73.6	73.4	73.4	74.9	73.0	74.0	74.7	77.7	75.8	74.3	75.5	75.3	74.6
1954	72.8	74.8	76.1	74.9	74.2	71.5	69.7	71.3	73.2	69.7	71.7	71.7	72.8
1955	67.3	67.3	67.1	68.5	72.6	68.5	69.2	70.3	71.9	70.9	70.8	73.1	69.8
1956	73.6	74.0	76.2	71.8	73.7	74.8	71.6	72.4	70.5	71.3	67.1	68.7	72.2
1957	72.5	74.3	71.9	72.8	70.0	68.6	70.4	69.1	69.8	69.5	66.5	65.9	70.6
1958	65.1	63.7											
Other wool 1/													
1950	3.4	3.8	3.4	3.0	3.1	3.8	3.1	4.6	3.2	3.3	3.1	2.7	3.4
1951	2.5	2.8	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	2.8	2.1	2.4	2.0	3.7	3.0
1952	2.7	2.1	3.2	3.8	4.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.2	2.5
1953	4.0	5.5	5.0	5.3	4.3	6.6	4.8	4.9	4.7	5.8	5.2	5.7	5.1
1954	2.1	1.8	2.0	2.3	2.3	2.2	3.0	1.7	2.1	2.5	2.2	2.0	2.1
1955	1.4	1.6	1.7	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.4	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.9
1956	1.7	1.8	2.0	1.5	1.9	1.6	2.1	1.4	1.1	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.5
1957	1.0	.9	1.1	.9	1.0	1.0	1.3	.7	.9	.9	1.1	9	1.0
1958	.9	.7											
Reused and reprocessed wool 1/													
1950	10.8	9.2	9.7	9.4	9.2	10.1	11.5	8.7	9.8	9.7	10.2	8.7	9.7
1951	9.2	9.6	8.9	9.1	9.2	8.5	13.1	5.0	8.5	6.8	7.3	5.8	8.5
1952	6.8	5.9	4.7	4.8	5.9	8.4	10.4	6.2	5.9	5.6	4.4	4.6	6.8
1953	5.4	4.0	5.0	4.8	5.9	4.8	7.1	4.1	5.0	4.4	7.7	4.4	5.1
1954	7.4	7.5	8.3	6.8	7.4	9.1	7.9	8.9	9.1	7.7	7.7	8.1	8.0
1955	9.1	8.6	9.8	7.9	6.2	6.3	6.9	6.2	7.7	8.0	7.8	8.2	7.8
1956	7.1	7.0	6.4	8.3	8.3	6.2	8.5	8.3	8.6	8.9	8.6	9.7	7.9
1957	9.7	8.1	9.5	10.5	8.0	8.5	10.7	10.1	9.6	11.2	10.1	9.7	9.6
1958	8.1	9.4											
Man-made fiber 2/													
1950	2.4	4.0	3.0	3.4	3.8	4.5	5.5	5.7	5.8	7.2	9.4	12.3	5.6
1951	11.7	13.8	13.4	22.0	29.4	31.9	37.1	31.4	27.7	21.5	22.3	17.5	20.8
1952	17.4	15.8	18.6	17.6	17.2	12.2	9.6	11.5	13.2	14.2	14.0	16.1	15.1
1953	15.3	16.0	15.6	14.0	15.7	13.7	12.7	11.9	13.4	14.5	10.7	13.5	14.1
1954	16.8	14.8	12.5	14.9	15.3	16.6	19.1	17.3	15.3	18.2	17.4	17.4	16.2
1955	21.4	21.7	20.6	20.7	18.5	22.1	19.5	20.4	16.6	17.6	18.0	15.9	19.3
1956	16.9	16.4	14.4	17.0	15.0	16.4	16.2	16.6	18.1	17.3	21.8	19.5	17.2
1957	16.1	15.4	16.7	14.3	18.3	19.4	16.4	18.8	19.1	17.8	21.5	22.7	17.6
1958	24.8	24.3											
Other fiber 2/													
1950	3.1	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.5	4.4	2.6	2.7	3.0	2.6	2.1	2.1
1951	2.7	2.4	1.9	2.4	3.2	4.0	7.4	4.6	4.3	3.8	3.9	3.2	3.1
1952	2.0	2.4	1.5	1.4	1.7	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.7
1953	1.7	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	.9	.7	1.4	1.1	1.0	.9	1.1	1.1
1954	.9	1.1	1.1	1.1	.8	.6	.3	.8	.3	1.9	1.0	.8	.9
1955	.8	.8	.8	.9	.8	1.0	2.0	1.4	1.9	1.8	1.5	.9	1.2
1956	.7	.8	1.0	1.4	1.1	1.0	1.6	1.3	1.7	1.2	1.5	1.1	1.2
1957	.7	1.3	.8	1.5	2.7	2.5	1.2	1.3	.6	.6	.8	.8	1.2
1958	1.1	1.9											

1/ As defined in the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939.
2/ Prior to January 1953, synthetics other than rayon and acetate were included with "other fibers."

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 13.--Woolen and worsted fabric production in United States, 1953-57 1/

Fabric	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Percentage change 1957 from 1955	Percentage change 1957 from 1956
	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	Percent	Percent
Woven fabric (except felt)	335,914	284,231	317,586	325,158	291,855	-8.1	-10.2
Apparel	290,652	262,369	297,744	311,411	278,211	-6.6	-10.7
Government orders	19,538	872	5,248	2,262	3,366	-35.9	+48.8
Other than Government orders	271,114	261,497	292,496	309,149	274,845	-6.0	-11.1
Men's and boys'	130,624	2/123,197	2/141,099	2/153,474	2/126,937	-10.0	-17.3
Woolen	57,494	53,103	68,264	69,412	61,644	-9.7	-11.2
Worsted	73,130	64,197	65,883	72,944	57,976	-12.0	-20.5
Women's and children's	140,490	2/138,300	2/151,397	2/155,675	2/147,908	-2.3	-5.0
Woolen	117,310	110,027	122,914	125,971	118,354	-3.7	-6.0
Worsted	23,180	16,156	15,403	15,629	14,987	-2.7	-4.1
Non-apparel	45,262	21,862	19,842	13,747	13,644	-31.2	-.8
Blanketing	26,693	12,584	11,816	8,850	8,756	-25.9	-1.1
Government orders	8,092	969	655	566	3/	3/	3/
Other than Government orders	18,601	11,615	11,161	8,284	3/	3/	3/
Transportation upholstery	16,407	5,147	4,370	2,034	1,980	-54.7	-2.7
Other non-apparel	2,162	4,131	3,656	2,863	2,908	-20.5	+1.6
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent	Percent
Woven felt	10,091	9,849	10,753	10,979	9,316	-13.4	-15.2

1/ Principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight. Blanketing in 72 inch width or equivalent. Other fabrics in 54 to 60 inch widths or equivalent 54 inch width. 2/ Includes fabrics 20 oz. and over for which breakdown not available. 3/ Not available.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 14.- Woolen and worsted fabric production in the United States during 1957 as percent of 1956

Fabric	January-March	April-June	July-September	October-December
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Woven fabric (except felt)	92.6	91.6	91.9	82.3
Apparel	93.6	91.1	90.6	81.1
Government orders	226.5	486.1	258.0	33.6
Other than Government orders	92.7	90.4	89.8	81.9
Men's and boys'	96.3	82.0	78.4	73.0
Woolen	109.9	94.9	81.0	69.9
Worsted	89.8	72.6	76.5	79.4
Women's and children's	89.0	99.0	100.6	90.8
Woolen	91.2	95.1	99.8	89.1
Worsted	80.8	137.0	83.6	85.8
Non-apparel	74.8	106.1	126.5	106.2
Blanketing	96.0	79.5	118.3	103.9
Government orders	1/	1/	1/	1/
Other than Government orders	1/	1/	1/	1/
Other non-apparel	53.9	205.6	147.3	110.8
Woven felt	83.5	84.0	84.5	87.8

1/ Not available.

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Of the nonapparel fabric, blanketing was down 1 percent; transportation upholstery, down 3 percent; and other nonapparel fabric, up 2 percent. The decline for men's and boys' wear fabric was 17 percent while that for women's and children's wear was 5 percent.

Cuttings of Men's Tailored Clothing Early This Year Below Year Earlier

The average weekly rates of cutting of the major categories of men's tailored clothing early this year were down for the second year in a row (table 15). Suit cuttings were 23 percent below 1957 and 24 percent below 1956. The weight-breakdown of suit cuttings reveals that the declines for regular-weight suits were 39 percent and 38 percent, respectively. Summer-weight suits were down 5 percent from last year and 8 percent from 1956. Cuttings of separate dress and sport trousers were 6 percent lower than last year and 28 percent below 1956. The corresponding declines for overcoats and topcoats were 24 percent and 50 percent, respectively. It should be noted that the declines for regular-weight suits and overcoats and topcoats, which are predominantly wool, were considerably greater than the declines for the other items which predominately use fabric containing less than 50 percent wool.

Cuttings of Most Women's Outerwear Garments Also Declined Early This Year

During the first two months of this year, cuttings of unit-priced dresses, suits, coats, and blouses were lower than last year (table 19). The declines ranged from 4 percent for blouses and dresses to 14 percent for suits. Skirt cuttings increased 2 percent.

Table 15.- Cuttings of specified items of men's tailored clothing, United States, January-March, 1956-58

Type of garment	Number of garments cut			Percentage change 1958 from	
	1956 (13 weeks)	1957 (13 weeks)	1958 (13 weeks)	1956	1957
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Percent
Suits, total	5,850	5,773	4,442	-24.1	-23.1
Regular-weight	3,071	3,093	1,896	-38.3	-38.7
Summer-weight	2,779	2,680	2,546	- 8.4	- 5.0
50 percent or more wool	1,143	1,168	---	---	---
Man-made fibers	1,558	1,376	---	---	---
Other	78	136	---	---	---
Separate dress and sport trousers	21,024	16,128	15,119	-28.1	- 6.3
50 percent or more wool	4,044	5,004	---	---	---
Other	16,980	11,124	---	---	---
Dress and sport coats	---	---	1,732	---	---
Overcoats and topcoats	1,201	797	605	-49.6	-24.1

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 16.- Percentage distribution of cuttings of men's tailored clothing by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-February 1956-58

Type of garment	1956	1957	1958
	Percent	Percent	Percent
Summer-weight suits	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	40.4	44.1	43.6
Man-made fibers	56.6	51.0	52.7
Other	3.0	4.9	3.7
Separate dress and sport trousers	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	20.5	33.9	19.9
Other	79.5	66.1	80.1

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 17.--Cuttings of specified items of men's tailored clothing, United States, 1955-57

Type of garment	Number of garments cut			Percentage change 1957 from	
	1955 (52 weeks)	1956 (52 weeks)	1957 (52 weeks)	1955	1956
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Percent
Suits, total	20,280	20,888	20,017	-1.3	-4.2
Regular-weight	15,338	15,062	14,329	-6.6	-4.9
Summer-weight	4,942	5,826	5,688	+15.1	-2.4
50 percent or more wool	1,879	2,300	2,348	+25.0	+2.1
Man-made fibers	2,794	3,227	2,951	+5.6	-8.6
Other	269	299	389	+44.6	+30.1
Separate dress and sport trousers	67,355	72,322	63,780	-5.3	-11.8
50 percent or more wool	19,441	19,777	22,092	+13.6	+11.7
Other	47,914	52,545	41,688	-13.0	-20.7
Overcoats and topcoats	5,672	6,140	3,693	-34.9	-39.9

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 18.--Percentage distribution of cuttings of men's tailored clothing by fiber content and type of garment, United States, 1955-57

Type of garment	1955	1956	1957
	Percent	Percent	Percent
Summer-weight suits	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	38.0	39.5	41.3
Man-made fibers	56.5	55.4	51.9
Other	5.5	5.1	6.8
Separate dress and sport trousers	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	28.9	27.3	34.6
Other	71.1	72.7	65.4

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 19.--Cuttings of specified items of women's, misses', and juniors' outerwear garments by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-February, 1956-58

Type of garment	1956	1957	1958	Percentage change 1958 from 1957
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent
Dresses (unit-priced)	26,320	24,050	23,021	-4.3
Rayon and acetate	12,795	12,536	12,947	+3.3
Other	13,525	11,514	10,074	-12.5
Skirts	13,728	13,824	14,148	+2.3
Rayon and acetate	3,456	3,276	2,880	-12.1
Other	10,272	10,548	11,268	+6.8
Suits	3,420	2,758	2,378	-13.8
Rayon and acetate	1,532	1,084	795	-26.7
Other	1,888	1,674	1,583	-5.4
Coats	4,460	4,708	4,648	-1.3
Blouses	27,084	29,280	28,092	-4.1
Cotton	18,000	18,360	21,348	+16.3
Other	9,084	10,920	6,744	-38.2

Compiled from Facts for Industry Series M23H, Bureau of the Census.

Table 20.--Percentage distribution of cuttings of women's, misses', and juniors' outerwear garments by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-February, 1956-58

Type of garment	1956	1957	1958
	Percent	Percent	Percent
Dresses (unit priced)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Rayon and acetate	48.6	52.1	56.2
Other	51.4	47.9	43.8
Skirts	100.0	100.0	100.0
Rayon and acetate	25.2	23.7	20.4
Other	74.8	76.3	79.6
Suits	100.0	100.0	100.0
Rayon and acetate	44.8	39.3	33.4
Other	55.2	60.7	66.6
Blouses	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	66.5	62.7	76.0
Other	33.5	37.3	24.0

Derived from Facts for Industry Series M23H, Bureau of the Census.

Table 21.- Wool used by the military forces: Clean basis, United States, by quarters, July-September 1954 to date 1/

Year and quarter	Quantity
	1,000 pounds
1954	
July-September	291
October-December	321
1955	
January-March	424
April-June	3,321
July-September	2,835
October-December	1,932
Total	8,512
1956	
January-March	1,231
April-June	629
July-September	958
October-December	2,078
Total	4,896
1957	
January-March	4,445
April-June	1,715
July-September	3,174
October-December	1,370
Total	10,704

1/ This series was discussed in "Deliveries of Wool Textile Products to the Military Forces" in The Wool Situation, August 13, 1956, pp. 30-31.

Wool Market Prices Important Factor in Making Payments Under Wool Program

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has pointed out to wool producers that under the wool payment program they should consider carefully the possible course of wool prices during the entire marketing year when selling their wool.

Under the incentive payment program, producers gain by getting the highest possible market price for their wool. Incentive payments on shorn wool will be made at a percentage rate which will bring the national average price received by all growers of wool sold during the current marketing year (April 1, 1958 to March 31, 1959) up to the previously announced 62-cent-per-pound incentive level.

Producers who sell their wool below the national average price for the year will get less than the 62-cent incentive level. For example, during the 1956 marketing year for which incentive payments were made in the summer of 1957, a grower who sold his wool for 35 cents per pound which was below the year's national average price of 44.3 cents per pound received a payment of 14 cents per pound based on the 40 percent payment rate for that year. This gave him a total return of 49 cents per pound.

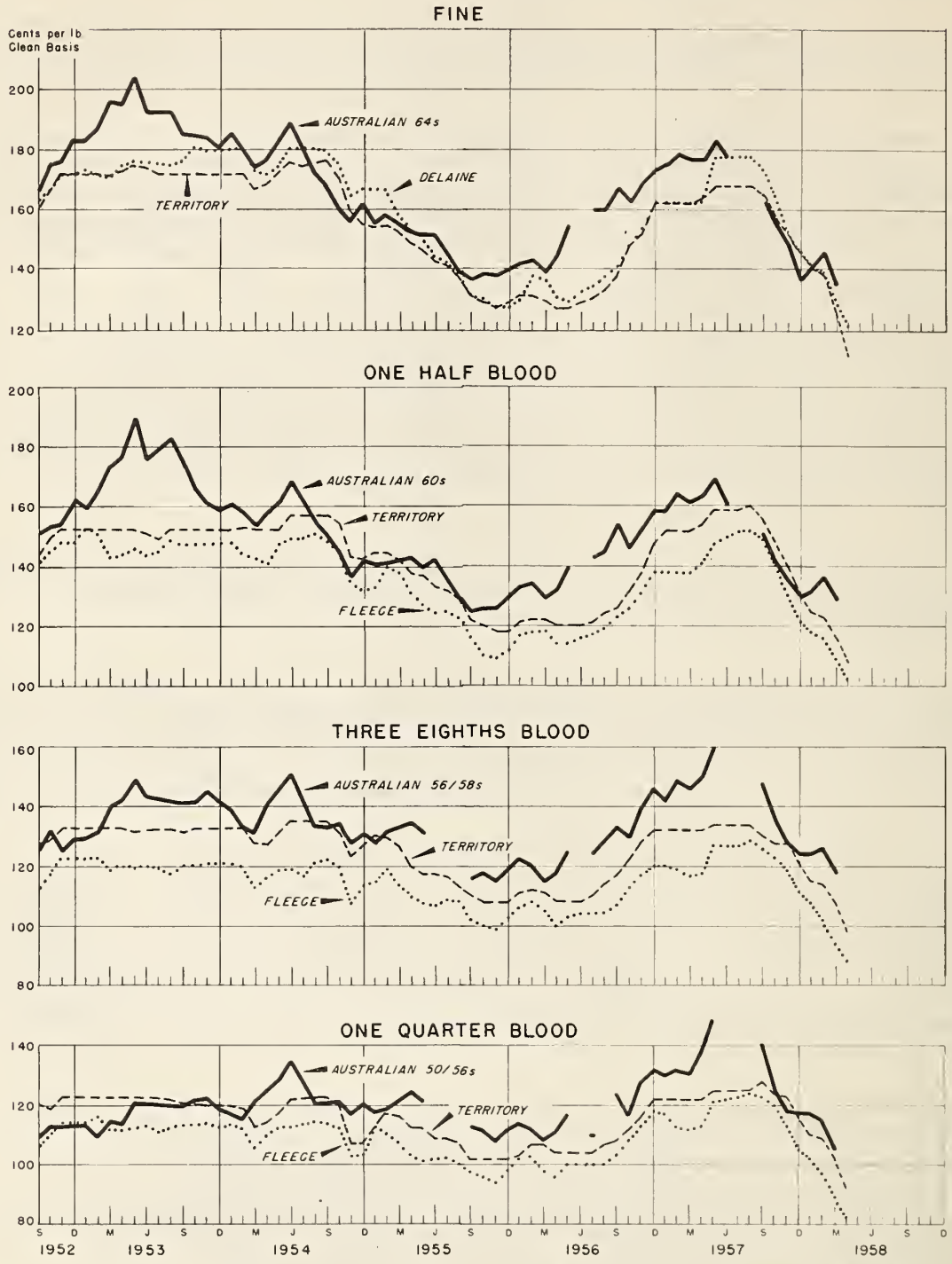
A grower who sold his wool for 50 cents per pound during that same marketing year received a payment of 20 cents per pound, giving him a total return of 70 cents per pound for his wool.

While marketing prices differ greatly for the wide range of grades and classes of wool produced, each individual grower should market to get the best possible price for his quality wool. Growers who sell their wool when market prices are highest for the year benefit in two ways: (1) more money at the time they sell their wool and (2) larger payments under the incentive program.

In making plans for selling their wool, producers might want to study the relationship of domestic wool prices to world wool prices. During the period of the wool price decline in recent months, wool prices in the U. S. have become lower than usual in relation to reported prices in the world market (see chart page 32.) Prices being offered growers for their wools may be reflecting a situation comparable to that which existed in late 1955 and early 1956 when prices in the domestic market were lower than usual relative to reported world wool prices.

The Department states that it is impossible at this time to predict precisely the rate of incentive payment to be made in the summer of 1959 on wool sold during the current marketing year. The rate will be figured on the basis of the national average price received by all producers for wool sold during the 12-month period. This national average is a "weighted" average and will depend on the course of wool prices from now through next March and the volume of wool sold each month.

PRICES FOR WOOL AT BOSTON AND SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA*



*Prices for Australian 64's and 60's are for good to average length wools and for 56/58's and 50/56's are for crossbred fleece combing wools landed Boston (duty paid), as reported in Daily News Record, adjusted to American yield and for market preparation, quotations for domestic territory and fleece wools which are for good French combing and staple wools and for Delaine were compiled from Weekly Review of the Boston Wool Market.

Livestock & Dairy Division, CSS

Growers in selling their wool during the marketing year will determine the national average price for the marketing year. Free selling early in a marketing year under conditions of uncertainty in the wool textile industry could result in a low national average price which would unnecessarily increase payments and the cost of the incentive program. The total amount of incentive payments under the National Wool Act of 1954 is limited to a portion of the duties collected on imported wool and wool manufactures.

Payment rate for the marketing year just ended on March 31 will be figured in June and payments to growers on wool sold during the April 1, 1957, to March 31, 1958, period will be completed by late summer or early fall.

USDA Announces Provisions for 1958 Mohair Support Program

Provisions for a price support program for mohair sold during the 1958 marketing year were announced on April 30 by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The National Wool Act of 1954, which authorizes the wool incentive payment program, also provides for support of mohair prices.

The mohair support price for the 1958 marketing year, as previously announced, will be 70 cents per pound, the same support price as for the 1955, 1956, and 1957 marketing years. The 70-cent-per-pound support price reflects 75 percent of the current mohair parity.

No payments were required on mohair sales during 1955 and 1956 and none are indicated for 1957. Recently, however, prices reported in Texas ranging from 46-1/2 to 51-1/2 cents per pound for adult mohair and 76-1/2 to 81-1/2 cents for kid mohair indicate that the national average price for mohair sold in the 1958 marketing year could fall below the 70-cent-per-pound support price thus requiring payments.

The mohair payment provisions announced are essentially the same as those issued for the 1958 payment program for shorn wool, except that no adjustments (like those for purchases of unshorn lambs under the wool program) will be made for purchases of goats or kids.

If mohair payments are required, they will be made as a percentage of each grower's cash returns from mohair, similar to the method employed for determining incentive payments on shorn wool. The percentage will be that required to raise the national average price received by all growers for mohair up to the support price of 70 cents per pound.

Payments would be made on mohair marketed during the period, April 1, 1958 to March 31, 1959. Applications for payment should be filed not later than April 30, 1959, with county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Offices. Sales slips received by growers on mohair will provide the information needed to determine payments, and growers are urged to keep them in a safe place.

Whether or not payments are required on 1958 mohair will be determined in the late summer of 1959 when the national average price for the entire marketing year is known. The national average is a "weighted" average and depends on mohair prices received by growers from now through next March and the volume of mohair sold each month. The price and time at which growers sell their mohair thus will determine the national average price for the marketing year.

The Department pointed out that growers should carefully consider the possible course of mohair prices during the entire marketing year because they have a two-fold reason for getting the best possible price in selling their mohair. First, they will net more money at the time they sell their mohair. Second, they will get a larger payment, if made, because of the percentage method of determining payments. This method is designed to encourage growers to do a good job of marketing their mohair.

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Title	Page
	Statistical Summary Part I Prices	2
	Statistical Summary Part II Supplies and Mill Activity	4
1	Price per pound of combing wool, clean basis (Bradford yield), at Australian auctions, by Bradford grades, 1955 to date	7
2	Price per pound of fleece wools, clean basis (Bradford yield), at the London auctions, by Bradford grades, 1956 to date	8
3	Prices of domestic shorn wool at Boston, clean basis, for week ended April 25, 1958 with comparisons	9
4	Exports of wool, actual weight, from Southern Hemisphere surplus-producing countries, 1955-56, 1956-57 and 1957-58 seasons through January	11
5	Commercial stocks of apparel wool, scoured basis, and a comparison of stocks with mill consumption, United States, December 28, 1946-January 1958	13
6	Commercial stocks of carpet wool, scoured basis, and a comparison of stocks with mill consumption, United States, December 28, 1946-January 1, 1958	15
7	Average weekly rate of consumption of apparel and carpet wool on woolen and worsted systems, scoured basis, United States, by months, 1950 to date	16
8	Estimated mill consumption of wool, rayon, acetate, other manmade fibers, silk, and cotton, United States, 1946-57	17
9	Percentage distribution of apparel wool and other fiber consumed on the worsted system, United States, by months, 1951 to date	20
10	Percentage distribution of production of top by fiber content, United States, by months, 1956 to date	21
11	Percentage distribution of apparel wool and other fiber consumed for the spinning of yarn (except carpet) on the woolen system, United States, by months, 1951 to date	22
12	Percentage distribution of fibers consumed for spinning of carpet and rug yarns on the woolen system, United States, by months, 1950 to date.	23
13	Woolen and worsted fabric production in United States, 1953-57	24
14	Woolen and worsted fabric production in the United States during 1957 as percent of 1956	25
15	Cuttings of specified items of men's tailored clothing, United States, January-March, 1956-58	27
16	Percentage distribution of cuttings of men's tailored clothing by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-February 1956-58	27
17	Cuttings of specified items of men's tailored clothing, United States, 1955-57	28
18	Percentage distribution of cuttings of men's tailored clothing by fiber content and type of garment, United States, 1955-57	28
19	Cuttings of specified items of women's, misses', and juniors' outerwear garments by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-February, 1956-58	29
20	Percentage distribution of cuttings of women's, misses', and juniors' outerwear garments by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-February, 1956-58	29
21	Wool used by the military forces: Clean basis, United States, by quarters, July-September 1954 to date	30

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